GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6275
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Vacant Posts of Ambassadors
Gopal Dr. K.;Kaswan Shri Rahul;Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise and country-wise number of Indian Ambassadors and diplomats posted in foreign countries as on date;

(b) the category-wise and country-wise number of vacant posts of Ambassadors and diplomats and since when these posts are lying vacant and the time by which these are likely to filled;

(c) the total number of Ambassadors/diplomats other than from Indian Foreign Service, Indian Administrative Service and Government Services; and

(d) whether the Government is preparing any scheme to recruit Ambassadors/Diplomats for working in Indian Missions abroad and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) As on date, 85 Ambassadors, 29 High Commissioners, 6 Permanent Representatives to multilateral organizations in the rank of Ambassador and 1 Representative are posted in foreign countries. There are 1116 officers from Indian Foreign Service and other cadres of the Ministry of External Affairs as well as from other Ministries and Departments of GOI who are posted on diplomatic assignments to Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

(b) Five posts of Ambassadors in following countries have recently fallen vacant − Belgium (March 2017), Bulgaria (April 2017), Germany (April 2017), Mali (February 2017) and The Philippines (November 2016). These Missions are currently headed at the level of Charge d'Affaires and are at different stages of being filled in. In addition, Indian Missions to Libya and Yemen, which are temporarily relocated to Malta and D'jbouti respectively, are also headed at the level of Charge d'Affaires.

(c) & (d) All Ambassadors and diplomats posted in Indian Missions and Posts abroad are from Government Service except one Ambassador who was appointed after retirement. No new scheme to recruit Ambassadors/ Diplomats for working in Indian Missions abroad is currently under consideration.

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